



National States Geographic Information Council

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## NSGIC Comments on NEAD Privacy and Security Plan

The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is the voice of the states on policy and implementation issues for managing geospatial technologies. NSGIC and its members advocate for the adoption and efficient implementation of geographic information systems (GIS) and related technologies across all levels of government. NSGIC's membership is diverse in the placement of geospatial coordination offices across the state government enterprise. This diversity is a strength when assembling an organizational response to opportunities for feedback.

NSGIC respectfully submits the following comments in review of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's Request for Comment on the "Wireless Carriers' Privacy and Security Plan (Plan) for the National Emergency Address Database (NEAD)" (PS Docket No. 07-114):

The Plan provides six (6) bulleted statements that describe the consumer privacy protections that will be incorporated into the operation of the NEAD Platform on page 4-5 of the document. NSGIC's concerns lie with the fourth bullet which states:

- *"Except as may be required by applicable law, information contained in the NEAD Platform will not be disclosed to third parties, including government entities, other than for E911 purposes. The NEAD Administrator will follow a defined procedure to assess and respond to valid governmental requests for Information."*

**NSGIC finds both sentences vague and not providing enough information as to what is considered an allowable use "for E911 purposes" or what specific qualifiers or guidelines used in the "defined procedure to assess and respond to government requests" may cause a governmental request to be denied.**

GIS data, in particular PSAP Boundaries, Emergency Service Boundaries, and street address data, is required for use in Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 Systems. State, regional, and local governments are busy preparing their authoritative GIS data for use in NG9-1-1. When FCC-15-9 was released in February 2015, these governmental entities (or 'Authoritative NG9-1-1 GIS Data Providers') took note of the new indoor location accuracy requirements and how PSAPs would be provided with "dispatchable location" information for indoor 9-1-1 calls. FCC-15-9 Section III.B.2 defines "dispatchable location" as the "verified or corroborated street address of the calling party plus additional information such as floor, suite, apartment or similar information that may be needed to adequately identify the location of the calling party." This "additional information" for a civic address is commonly found in the subaddress elements in Site/Structure Address Point GIS data, one of the GIS data layers used in NG9-1-1.

Civic address locations must be validated prior to use during a 9-1-1 call in order to verify that the location is routable for 9-1-1 and usable for dispatch. Currently, telecommunications carriers validate their subscriber civic address locations against a PSAP's Master Street Address Guide (MSAG). However,



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in a NG9-1-1 system, validation will occur against the authoritative GIS data as part of the Location Validation Function. Given FCC-15-9 provides for the NEAD to present PSAPs with a dispatchable location during a call, PSAPs and Authoritative NG9-1-1 GIS Data Providers will want to validate dispatchable locations being entered into the NEAD against their own authoritative GIS data prior to a 9-1-1 call coming from that dispatchable location, to confirm the location is routable and usable for dispatch. Since a dispatchable location is a complete civic address that contains all address elements (including all subaddress components) necessary to find that location, an address is considered 'valid' only when it has been validated to the subaddress level in the Site/Structure Address Point GIS data and not just to the primary street address.

**NSGIC believes that pre-validation of a NEAD dispatchable location, including its additional 'subaddress' information, should be considered an allowable government use for 9-1-1 purposes and should be specifically cited as such in the Plan.** NSGIC members desire their PSAPs and Authoritative NG9-1-1 GIS Data Providers have access to the NEAD dispatchable address information to not only validate the NEAD dispatchable locations but to also identify potential missing addresses in their authoritative GIS data. Missing addresses could be researched, validated, and added to their authoritative GIS data so that should a 9-1-1 call ever came from the NEAD dispatchable address, it will be located in their authoritative GIS data to the subaddress level. A civic address added to local authoritative GIS data as a result of a PSAP or Authoritative NG9-1-1 GIS Data Provider researching a NEAD dispatchable address should not be considered proprietary or be restricted from being shared outside of 9-1-1. Many PSAPs and Authoritative NG9-1-1 GIS Data Providers work closely with their sister governmental agencies and share their GIS data to avoid costly data duplication activities.

It is important to note that NSGIC is not advocating for MAC addresses of Wi-Fi Access Points or Bluetooth Public Device Addresses (BT-PDAs) of the Bluetooth beacons to be made available for the pre-validation of a NEAD dispatchable location.

NSGIC would also like to point out that the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008 at 47 U.S. Code § 222 (g) regarding subscriber listed and unlisted information for emergency services, makes it very clear that ALL "interconnected" providers of dial-tone must provide subscriber address info to 911 projects.

*"Notwithstanding subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section, a telecommunications carrier that provides telephone exchange service or a provider of IP-enabled voice service (as such term is defined in section 615b of this title) shall provide information described in subsection (i)(3)(A) of this section (including information pertaining to subscribers whose information is unlisted or unpublished) that is in its possession or control (including information pertaining to subscribers of other carriers) on a timely and unbundled basis, under nondiscriminatory and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions to providers of emergency services, and providers of emergency support services, solely for purposes of delivering or assisting in the delivery of emergency services."*



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The important precedent provided by this citation is that all subscriber location information will be shared with emergency responders. This is all the more important in the NG9-1-1 context because location is the basis for call routing and also supports dispatch. The FCC order says that carriers will provide "dispatchable location" but a "location" should be mapped in order to be most useful.

Addressing authorities within local, regional, and state governments are investing heavily in mapping civic addresses to support the Location Validation Function in NG9-1-1 systems. If at the NEAD contains address building, floor and unit level detail inconsistent with the authoritative location information that exists in the NG9-1-1 Location Validation Function, that additional detail will not be useful for dispatch except in text form. In many scenarios, such as campuses, large industrial / commercial complexes, and other institutional settings, having a map that is linked to subaddress detail might not help in routing the call, but would be extremely useful for dispatch purposes. If there is no opportunity for public safety entities to map this kind of detail in advance, it will be much less useful.

NSGIC appreciates the opportunity to provide this feedback on the NEAD Privacy and Security Plan. GIS data is critical for use in NG9-1-1 systems. Pre-validation of a NEAD dispatchable location must be spelled out as an allowable government use for 9-1-1 purposes. Clarifying these two key points will strengthen the NEAD and ensure higher levels of public safety and emergency response.